

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 303012

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ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

6011

DRAFTED BY:AF:I:LTCOL FEWIRKUS

APPROVED BY:AF:EWMULCAHY

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R 302133Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

S E C R E T STATE 303012

LIMDIS

FOR DATT

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED DECEMBER 24, 1975

SENT LIBREVILLE INFO KINSHASA, JCS (J-5) WASHDC, USCINCEUR

IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 303012

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, GB, US

SUBJ: MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO GABON

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO PRESIDENT BONGO'S KINSHASA REQUEST TO AMBASSADOR MULCAHY FOR U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GABON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DESIRE TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH THE GABONESE, STATE/DOD PLANS TO SEND A THREE-MAN MILITARY TEAM TO GABON TO SURVEY ITS DEFENSE NEEDS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT ANY FUTURE ASSISTANCE WOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH FMS.

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2. ALTHOUGH THE MILITARY TEAM IS EXPECTED TO FULLY ASSESS

THE GABONESE ARMED FORCES DEFENSE NEEDS, AN IMPORTANT PURPOSE OF THIS MILITARY MISSION IS TO GIVE A CONCRETE DEMONSTRATION OF POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT BONGO AND OTHER MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS SUCH AS PRESIDENT MOBUTO. WE WISH TO REASSURE THEM OF OUR INTENTIONS AND RESOLVE IN AFRICA. THE TEAM IS BEING SELECTED WITH A VIEW TOWARDS PICKING MILITARY OFFICERS WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF SENSITIVE POLITICAL-MILITARY MATTERS AND PREFERABLY WITH SOME FIRST-HAND AFRICAN EXPERIENCE.

3. THE TEAM WILL BE HEADED BY A U.S. ARMY COLONEL (O-6) AND WILL ALSO INCLUDE OFFICERS (O-6 OR O-5) FROM BOTH THE U.S. AIR FORCE AND NAVY. THE TEAM WILL BE PROFICIENT IN FRENCH. STATE/DOD PLANS TO HAVE THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM ARRIVE IN GABON AROUND 5 JANUARY 1975 AND REMAIN IN COUNTRY FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS.

4. DETAILED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TEAM AS WELL AS PRESS GUIDANCE AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING THE SURVEY MISSION ARE CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED AND WILL BE CABLED TO POST WHEN AVAILABLE.

5. EMBASSY LIBREVILLE SHOULD NOT INFORM THE GABONESE OF THE ABOVE AS ASST SEC SCHAUFELE WILL PERSONALLY WANT TO BRIEF BONGO. KISSINGER UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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